



THE CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course Unit Title	Legal Research Methods and Legal Academic Writing	
Course Unit Code	FL850	
Type of Unit	Core	
Level of Course Unit	Second cycle	
Year of Study	First/second year	
Semester	On demand	
Number of ECTS Credits	4.5 ECTS	
Course Unit Objectives	<p>The objective of this course is to introduce students to legal research methods and legal academic writing.</p> <p>Firstly, the course is designed to equip students with the appropriate tools to gain the full benefit of access to legal research sources. Nowadays, legal data is abundant and widespread on open source gateways, but not always systematically fashioned, making their use an uneasy exercise. Besides, legal databases do host materials of high value, but their exploration presents technical complexity. The course aims to prepare students for careers in the law that demand knowledge and development skills, not only in an auxiliary and instrumental fashion.</p> <p>Secondly, the course aims to aid students impeding research findings into legal reasoning and elaborate legal argumentation appropriately. This effort is enhanced by academic, judicial case reading, to allow students to provide rigorous, accurate, and reliable legal advisory and litigation documentation writing.</p> <p>The stakes are high in the particularly demanding environment of financial and tax law. Seeking this objective, by the conclusion of the course, students are expected to discern pertinent legal questions and to undertake researching case history. By these means, they are to determine the state of positive law in the specific area and to construct legal writings. Beyond this objective, the students are expected to communicate these findings in clear two-way communication orally and efficiently liaise with people from non-legal backgrounds.</p> <p>Foremost, the approach suggests heavily emphasizes on understanding citation methods and requirements, on the crucial distinction between hard and soft law in legal writing, and on the differentiation in language styling for writing between memos and briefs. The teaching methods applied shall help students for writing in law, as an advisor, attorney or in-house lawyer, but also writing about law, preparing a master thesis, articles, policy papers, seminars and eventually a Ph.D. thesis.</p>	
Learning Outcomes	On completion of this course students are expected to:	
	CILO 1	analyze the relationship between EU, international and domestic law
	CILO 2	familiarize with sources of legal input in their areas of expertise
	CILO 3	predict possible outcomes of future evolutions: legislative/jurisprudential
	CILO 4	proactively construct legal strategies and practices
	CILO 5	prepare oral and written legal arguments
	CILO 6	practicum A: writing in law
	CILO 7	practicum B: writing about law
Name of Lecturer(s)	TBA	
Mode of delivery	Face to Face	
Prerequisites or corequisites	None	
Course Content	Finding relevant materials (law, judicial decision, parliamentary work)	CILO 1,2
	Method of description	CILO 1,3
	Method of conceptual analysis	CILO 3,4
	Method of evaluation	CILO 3,4
	Pleading in law, the oral communication (moot court)	CILO 5
	Pleading in law, writing in law	CILO 6,7
	Writing about law	CILO6
Recommended or required reading	Textbooks: Emily Finch and Stefan Fafinski, Legal Skills, 7th Edition, 2019, Oxford,	

	<p>Optional textbook: Strongman, Luke, Academic writing, Newcastle upon Tyne : Cambridge Scholars, 2013 Zariski, Archie, Legal literacy : an introduction to legal studies / Archie Zariski, Edmonton, AB : AU Press, Athabasca University, 2014.</p> <p>Articles & Journals:</p> <p>PECORARI, D. Academic Writing and Plagiarism: A Linguistic Analysis. Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd.</p> <p>SWORD, H. Stylish Academic Writing, Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Tang, R. (2012) Academic Writing in a Second or Foreign Language: Issues and Challenges Facing ESL/EFL Academic Writers in Higher Education Contexts. Edited by R. Tang. Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd</p> <p>Online sources:</p> <p>https://caw.ceu.edu https://www.aims.edu https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/en/insights/learn/what-are-legal-research-methods</p>
Planned learning activities and teaching methods	Lectures; in-class discussion and debates; in-class exercises; problem sets; team work; video case studies, team presentations, presentation, negotiation, mediation and mooting simulation.
Assessment methods and criteria	Oral presentation, academic writing (article of 2000 words).
Language of Instruction	English
Work Placement(s)	Not applicable